

# THE INTERNATIONAL OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS E&P SOUND & MARINE LIFE JOINT INDUSTRY PROGRAMME



The Joint Industry Programme, or JIP, supports research to help increase understanding of the effect of sound, generated by oil and gas exploration and production activity, on marine life. This helps governments to make regulatory decisions based on the best science and allows industry to develop effective and appropriate mitigation. It also helps us supply much needed energy to people around the world.

## Why does the JIP exist?

The JIP firmly believes that effective policy must stem from good, independent science.

As a result, in 2005 a wide group of international oil companies and the International Association of Geophysical Contractors committed to found a Joint Industry Programme (JIP). Under the auspices of the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP), the programme's aim is to identify and conduct a research programme that improves understanding of the potential impact of Exploration and Production (E&P) sound on marine life.



*A vessel towing a seismic array*

## Objectives

1. The JIP identifies and commissions a research programme that helps improve understanding of the potential impact of E&P sound on marine fauna.
2. It educates stakeholders to ensure that regulations are proportionate and built on the best independent science.
3. It promotes effective academic and NGO partnerships to build common scientific understanding.

## External Advisors

Collaboration is one of the founding principles of the JIP, who have deliberately engaged independent scientists to guide the research, ensuring that it conforms to the highest standards. With this aim in mind, the JIP Executive Committee has appointed an external advisory panel made up of recognised experts from outside the industry (regulators, academics, NGOs and scientists). The external advisory panel provides regular review of the programme's direction and scope of work. Their independent voices ensure the credibility and authority of the overall research programme.

## The JIP's research

There are many organisations actively engaged in studying sound in the marine environment; this area of research is of growing interest and studies have already been conducted by military, academia and regulators. The JIP has the most extensive industry research programme in this field. Working together with multi-national groups, experts and NGOs, the JIP has already committed \$ 31 million (US) to research.

The research is divided into five categories, which are complementary and designed to allow the JIP to fully understand the issue and potential effects associated with underwater sound from E&P activities.

### CORE RESEARCH AREAS

**Category 1** – Sound source characterisation and propagation

**Category 2** – Physical and physiological effects and hearing

**Category 3** – Behavioural reactions and biologically significant effects

**Category 4** – Mitigation and monitoring

**Category 5** – Research Tools

Request for Proposals (RFP) are announced on the website and research that addresses global issues in marine sound will be favoured over research that addresses local or regional issues. Support is usually given in the form of contracts, not grants.

Contracts ensure that projects supported will focus on an agreed topic and that the results will be made available to scientific and regulatory communities as well as the public on an agreed schedule. JIP's policies require recipients to submit their reports publically, and to seek publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals, to ensure maximum programme transparency and utility to the scientific and regulatory communities.

## Members



## How it works?

The JIP provides financial support for independent researchers to study important global issues related to marine sound.

### LEARN MORE

To learn more about the JIP and our research, please visit <http://www.soundandmarinelife.org/>

#### Contact us

General Enquiries: [info@soundandmarinelife.org](mailto:info@soundandmarinelife.org);

Media Enquiries: [press@soundandmarinelife.org](mailto:press@soundandmarinelife.org) or +44 207 413 3416